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APPEAL

TO THE LOVERS AND PATRONS OF LITERATURE,

IN BEHALF OF

A WELL-KNOWN HISTORIAN AND HIS FAMILY,

CONSISTING OF A WIFE AND ELEVEN CHILDREN.

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

In the Spring of the year 1841, this melancholy indisputably attested statement respecting **Dr. DUNHAM**, the **HISTORIAN OF SPAIN**, &c. and his very large family, was printed, and to a certain extent distributed, by some dignitaries of **Durham** :—

"That poverty, frequently of the most deplorable kind, is the invariable lot of the man who has no other support than the pen, is a fact which, however melancholy, is too well known in literary biography to require illustration here. There are indeed instances, and those not a few, which at the first glance seem to furnish an exception to this remark; yet, when narrowly examined, they serve only to confirm it. If we turn to the most distinguished and most successful writers of the day, we shall find their pecuniary prosperity derived from extrinsic sources. They are pensioned, like Southey and Campbell; they hold official appointments, like Wordsworth and Palgrave; they follow lucrative professions, like Turner and Talford; they are clergymen, like Faber and Lingard; or they have fortunes, like Hallam and Landor. It may, indeed, be safely affirmed that there is not, in modern times at least, a single instance of a literary man, however eminent, being able to provide for a family by the unassisted exercise of the pen.

"If this statement be true in general, it is peculiarly so in the case of Dr. Dunham. For some years he has experienced, in its fullest and most bitter extent, the doom which the great moral poet has attached to the sons of learning and genius—

"Toll, envy, want, the garret, and the jail."

Forced in January, 1836, by circumstances as unexpected as they were disastrous, to descend from his usual grade of society, to seek a precarious subsistence for himself and large family, by becoming the drudge of booksellers, and to undertake subjects for which neither previous study nor bent of mind had prepared him; harassed by incessant delays in the publication of his writings, and consequently by the indefinite postponement of the scanty remuneration stipulated to be paid him; oppressed, on the part of his publishers, by successive breaches of contract, and by the necessity, after months of painful labour, to renounce all hope of remuneration whatever; obliged to leave in the power of the broker, his furniture, books, clothes, and the clothes of his family (the garments which they happened to have on their backs at the moment), as an equivalent for rent which he was unable to pay; immured for debt, for months together, in a metropolitan prison; doomed to see beings dearer to him than his own life, wasted by disease, by sorrow, and by insufficient food; confined to mean apartments, almost without furniture,—his bed a mattress on the floor, without covering of any kind except one blanket; destitute of clothing to protect him and his from the inclemency of the weather; despaired

by the purse-proud for his indigence, and for the meanness of his garb; sunk in spirit, weakened in body, sickened at heart, he surely, of all men, has most reason to complain of a profession which, without any fault of his own, has plunged him into the lowest depths of wretchedness.

"But even this is not the worst. Owing to causes to which allusion has been made, and especially to the most recent breach of contract by the editor and proprietors of 'The New General Biographical Dictionary' (a work conducted from the first with singular ignorance alike of general literature, and of the practical working of the press), he, his wife, and five elder children are, at this moment, receiving a pittance of 8s. per week, with a few loaves of bread, from the board of Guardians of St. Pancras Parish; whilst the five youngest children are actually inmates of the workhouse of the same parish! The workhouse, indeed, must speedily be the lot of the seven, no less than of the five, unless some liberal patrons of literature interfere to save them from that melancholy extremity—that most irretrievable disgrace—that hopeless degradation.

"With all this unequalled suffering, Dr. Dunham, it is scarcely necessary to say, is not to be classed among ordinary writers. That his historical labours have been mentioned with great respect by the most discerning portion of the critical press, it is evident from the extracts on the fourth page of this circular. The favourable judgement has been confirmed by the most distinguished of our living authors,—by Southey and Liguard, by Moore and Campbell, and a host besides. The first of these eminent men, in a letter to Mr. Prebendary Townsend, of Durham, (dated January, 1833,) emphatically expresses his opinion that 'there is no living man from whom greater or better things can be expected' and in another letter (to Dr. Dunham himself) he observes, that he (Dr. D.) 'is capable of writing that which posterity will not readily let die.'

"To assist in rescuing such a man from utter destruction, and in placing him on a stage where he may have full scope for exercise of his learning and talents, must be gratifying to the liberal and the enlightened. To escape from the thralldom of booksellers; to be enabled to choose his own subjects, his own limits, his own time, for the improvement of his future writings,—he intends, if the necessary means can be obtained, either to enter a small farm, or to open a classical and commercial school. Or, probably, as he has two sons who will soon be useful to him, he may combine both, with the exercise of the pen."

Relating as that statement did to a gentleman whose writings in general have been most favourably received, not only by the public at large, but by the most distinguished of European scholars,* it could hardly fail to produce some effect: it did in fact produce a considerable one. Having ascertained not only that his misfortunes were real, but that they were unmerited, some leading personages (among them were the Queen Dowager, the Bishops of Bagnor, Durham, Lincoln, Llandaff, London, and St. David's; the Lords Aberdeen, Ashley, Brougham, Burlington, Clarendon, Francis Egerton, Haddington, Harrowby, and Lonsdale,) enabled him, by their seasonable donations, to remove his children from the workhouse of St. Pancras; to purchase a few articles of household furniture; to provide himself and family with suitable clothing; and to wait the result of an application to Lord Melbourne for a pension, which they conceived to have been well merited by his writings.

How nobly that application was supported, may be inferred from a few of the letters which great and good men addressed to Dr. Dunham on that occasion, and which are below submitted to the reader, as incontestible evidence of the truth of the present relation.†

* See "Critical Opinions on the Historical Writings of S. A. Dunham, LL. D., &c." on the last page.

† From the Bishop of St. David's.

"Sir,—I have read the statement you have sent me, with a very lively sympathy, and heartily wish it was in my power to do anything that might permanently better your circumstances. For the present I can only beg you to accept the enclosed order, as a

token of my sincere respect for your learning and abilities, and my earnest hope that they may still meet with the reward they deserve.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Abergwilll, April 3, 1841. "ST. DAVIDS."

So little doubt was entertained of the final success of the efforts made in Dr. Dunham's behalf, that he was advised without delay to resume his literary pursuits.

There were three different works which he was desirous to publish :

1. A Latin Treatise on Scholastic Theology, designed for the use of students in our universities, and those of the continent, especially of students intended for the Church. To this undertaking he was instigated by Dr. Gilly, Prebend of Durham and Vicar of Norham.

"My dear Sir,—God seems to be bringing you through your difficulties: glorify Him by a work for which you are fully qualified. We want in Latin a Protestant Manual of Theology, more *discreet*, for the use of university students, especially of candidates for Holy Orders,—something after the manner of Denis, but without his sophistry. This is an undertaking worthy of you, and one which, from your extensive

acquaintance with the fathers and schoolmen, you are so capable of executing. As I told Lord Ashley, I consider you of all men living the best qualified for it. Pray begin it, and I will try to find a publisher for you.

"Norham, April, 1841.

"Ever yours, faithfully,
"W. S. GILLY."

2. From Lord Clarendon's letter it will be seen that by the Bishop of Durham, Dr. Dunham had been advised to write his *Memoirs*.* One who had seen much of life both at home and abroad—who had mixed with society of every grade—who had surveyed, with particular attention, the state of learning and of religion in foreign universities, whether Roman Catholic or Protestant,—who had penetrated even into the solitude of the cloister, might be supposed to have collected some facts worthy of record.

3. A Drama in blank verse, (somewhat in the manner of Joanna Baillie,) to portray the progress and results of a leading passion.

While Dr. Dunham was busily making his arrangements for the publication of at least two of these works, his studies were rudely suspended by new misfortunes. The application for a pension was unsuccessful—the small fund raised by private benevolence was exhausted—and another ordeal of suffering soon had to be undergone.

Beset by privations of every kind, disheartened by so many failures, and hopeless of useful employment at home, Dr. Dunham determined, if the necessary pecuniary means could be obtained, to emigrate into Upper Canada. By exchanging the pen for the woodman's axe, he trusted that in the untrodden forest, beyond the bounds of civilization, he should find the subsistence which artificial life had denied him. From a few generous patrons of literature, he received some pecuniary assistance towards this object; and though the aggregate was small, yet as there was

To the request that his Lordship would be pleased to support the application already made to Lord Melbourne for a pension, that most learned Prelate answered:—

"Sir,—I have written to Lord Melbourne by this post, to recommend the application that has been made to him on your behalf, and heartily hope it may prove successful.

"Abergwill, April 7, 1841.

"I am, Sir, yours very faithfully,
"C. ST. DAVIDS."

From the Bishop of London.

"Sir,—I am truly concerned that a person of your talents and attainments should be reduced to the necessity of asking for those means, which you ought to be able to command. I hope that the application made on your behalf for a pension may be successful. If an opportunity offers of speaking to Lord Melbourne in your favour I will do so; but I feel some difficulty, in consequence of my having recently made a strong representation to his Lordship in favour of another literary man, whose classical acquirements have failed to secure him a competent livelihood. In the mean time I request your acceptance of a bank-post bill for £10, the safe receipt of which I will thank you to acknowledge.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
"London House, April 5, 1841. "C. J. LONDON."

From the Bishop of Llandaff.

"Sir,—I have read the printed statement, with sympathy for your distress, and a wish that I could conveniently contribute more largely to its relief; but the claims upon me for subscriptions are so numerous, and still so increasing, that I must in this instance limit myself to £5, which I enclose, and shall be glad to hear that you have received.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Deanery, St. Paul's, April 7, 1841. "R. LLANDAFF."
"Sir,—I have written to Lord Melbourne, begging leave to add my recommendation of you for a pension to that of others, and I hope the application will succeed.
"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Deanery, St. Paul's, April 10, 1841. "R. LLANDAFF."

From the Lord Ashley.

"Sir,—I am quite distressed by the statement you have sent me—it is discreditable to a country like this, so full of wealth and so ready in profession, that a person of your attainments should have been suffered to fall into such a want of even the necessities of life.

"I wish I had the means of giving you effectual assistance, but I have not; and I must therefore be content to do just so much as will mark my sympathy, and afford you momentary relief.

"Perhaps you will oblige me by accepting the enclosed draft.
"I am, Sir, your very obedient, humble servant,
"March 24, 1841. "ASHLEY."

* From the Earl of Clarendon.

"Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated yesterday, and to assure you that no efforts of mine shall be wanting to procure for you some permanent provision. Lord Melbourne must of course be governed by existing regulations with respect to the grant of pensions to literary men, but he sympathises deeply in your great and unmerited misfortunes, and I am convinced he will do for you all that may be consistent with his duty.

"In the meanwhile, I take the liberty of expressing my entire concurrence in the recommendation which I believe was made to you by the excellent and benevolent Bishop of Durham to publish an autobiography, as I think it may be the most effectual

means of relieving your present necessities. I request your acceptance of the enclosed and I remain,

"Grosvenor Crescent, April 2, 1841.

"Sir, your obedient servant,
"CLARENDON."

From the Lord Brougham.

"Lord Brougham presents his compliments to Dr. Dunham. Having read his statement with feelings which it would be difficult for him to describe, he is truly sorry to have hardly any thing in his power to relieve him—the enclosed draft for £5, being all he can at the present moment afford. But he hopes that Dr. D.'s case may attract the notice of others who have the means of serving him more effectually.

"Grafton Street, Saturday.

From the Lord Francis Egerton.

"Sir,—I have written to Lord Melbourne, but I consider your application to be so supported that my letter will probably add not a feather to the scale; and if you do not succeed, I do not know who will or can. I do not, however, know anything of the present practice with regard to such grants.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Worsley, Manchester. "F. EGERTON."

From the Earl of Huddington.

"Sir,—At the request of Dr. Gilly, I had written to Lord Melbourne, enclosing the Dr.'s letter to me to his lordship. Lord Melbourne's answer informed me that many persons, of all political opinions, had interested themselves in your favour. I sincerely hope that the result of their endeavours may be favourable. Lord M.'s letter says nothing precise on that point; but I should judge that he is favourably disposed. Sincerely wishing you the return of better days,

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Berkeley Square, April 28, 1841. "HADDINGTON,"

"Sir,—I am much concerned to find that all the many recommendations in your favour, added to your own strong claim, have failed in having a favourable answer from the Prime Minister.

"I had hoped, from what he said to me, though it was anything but decisive, that you would have attained your object. I have no right to say a word on the subject of your determination to try your fortune in America, but I am glad to collect from your letter, that you are not going immediately. Should circumstances occur to justify me in so doing, I shall be ready to join with others in recommending your claims to favourable attention. I can now say no more, than that I beg your acceptance of the enclosed trifling contribution.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"Berkeley Square, June 21, 1841. "HADDINGTON."

To the above may be added an extract from a letter, which, though received some time prior to the agitation of the pension, will show the estimate formed of Dr. Dunham's character and talents, by learned and good men. The writer was the late REV. HUGH JAMES ROSE, B. D., Principal of King's College:—

"King's College, 11th October.

"My dear Sir,—I am not much given to express feelings; but I have not been so much surprised and shocked for a long time past, as by the perusal of your letter. I too have had my struggles; but when I compare them with what you have suffered, and my puny acquirements with yours, I cannot but perceive that things in this world do not go by learning and merit."

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a probability of its being daily augmented, he did not hesitate to make the necessary preparations for the voyage. But while diligently preparing for it, two circumstances rendered it wholly impracticable. In the first place, the donations for this purpose did not continue as they had commenced; and by a careful estimate he found that when arrived at Goderich, or even Toronto, he should not have a single pound in his pocket. Still this fact alone, however disheartening, would not have deterred him from seeking his fortune in that Colony, but *all* his children being successfully seized by the *measles* (some of them by a virulent form of that distemper), the expenses of this protracted visitation so reduced his scanty funds, that with the greatest economy he would have required £20 more than all he had in the world, to convey himself and tender charges to the banks of the Huron; the project therefore was necessarily abandoned.

While alluding to his benefactors it would be unpardonable to omit the leading Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford. With the view of permanently securing his welfare, those excellent men appealed nobly in his behalf to the university at large.*: but appeals to public bodies are never so successful as when addressed to individual sympathy. Small, however, as was the advantage derived from this measure, the appeal itself will remain on record, not less honourable to Dr. Dunham, whose learning and talents it so highly estimates, than to the collegiate authorities with whom it originated.

To dwell on the painful circumstances which attended this new disappointment would be useless, since it would be little more than a repetition of what has already been stated. Having zealously, perseveringly, but unsuccessfully sought for employment, Dr. Dunham, was compelled, in February last, again to become an out door pauper of the parish of St. Pancras.

Nobody acquainted with the deep humiliations inseparable from this species of dependence, will think that it arrived without every possible effort to avert it. To attend at the workhouse once every week; to be left standing, perhaps for an hour, among the lowest, vilest, and most filthy of the out-door paupers, until your turn comes to be ushered before the board; to submit without a murmur, to the questions and remarks of men who have no respect for learning, no sympathy with misfortune, no consideration for feelings rendered doubly acute by the remembrance of other days; to be sometimes blamed for want of success in seeking a livelihood, and for not having rid the parish of a burden; on receiving the hardly-earned pittance, (for to an educated mind hardly and bitterly earned it is,) to perceive, from the looks of all present, that it would be no much longer be allowed; and to expect every succeeding board-day that it would be revoked, and that you must either die of famine, or consent to take up your abode in the workhouse, was surely a lot heavy enough to be borne. Yet all this was light as air compared with the prospect of being thus immured. To be deprived, by a rigorous confinement, of the power of exertion, and consequently of all hope of bettering his condition; to see his children exposed to moral contamination by associating from morning to night, with such as had not been taught the first principles of duty; to see the elder ones, whom he had endeavoured to inspire with the love of useful knowledge, apprenticed to the vilest crafts, perhaps under the vilest masters,—their morals and religion neglected,—their generous desire for mental improvement deadened,—their hopes in this world, and probably in the next, destroyed,—what would death be in comparison with such a fate?

But in the darkest circumstances, when aid is least expected, the light of Providence is often nearest at hand. Again have some wise, good, and influential men hastened to the relief of Dr. Dunham and his family. Not satisfied with his temporary rescue from misery, they have endeavoured to interest the present government in his behalf: unfortunate, however, ministers have no funds at their immediate disposal for such cases as his; and his age, (47) disqualifies him for any post in their gift; while his eldest son, (now 17,) is as much too young, as he is too old, to be benefited by their friendly disposition towards him. With infinite regret his friends have been forced to divert from this pursuit.

II. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY SOME NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN FOR THE PERMANENT ADVANTAGE OF DR. DUNHAM AND HIS FAMILY.

After many inquiries, and much protracted deliberation, the well wishers of Dr. Dunham, hopeless of serving him effectually in England, have concurred in proposing the revival of the emigration project to Canada. By furnishing him with *strong recommendations* to the Governor-General, to the Bishop of Toronto, and other distinguished residents in that province, they hope, (and with reason) that some fit appointment may be conferred upon him, especially as the obstacle arising from his age, (inseparable in this country) does not prevail to any great extent, beyond the Atlantic. Yet, feeling as they do, that the welfare of so large a family should not be left to *probabilities* of success, however spacious, they propose

- 1st. To purchase 100 acres at least of land, (cleared or uncleared) in some district of western Canada.
- 2nd. To erect thereon suitable dwelling houses and farm buildings, if there be none already transferable with the land.
- 3rd. To add a moderate quantity of live stock and of agricultural implements.
- 4th. To enable Dr. Dunham, by a supply of money, (say £70. or £80.) to maintain himself and family, until the land repays the labour that may be bestowed upon it.
- 5th. To enable him also, (when the first difficulties of settlement are subdued, and when he can no longer be tormented by the fear of wanting the necessaries of life,) to resume his literary pursuits, which penury and anxiety have so long suspended; and apply to the duties of any post which his influential friends in Canada may be so good as to confer upon him.

For the attainment of all these objects—for securing to a suffering author the sure foundation of an independence through life, it is estimated, (and the estimate has been approved by her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners,) about SIX HUNDRED POUNDS will suffice. It includes outfit here—voyage to Quebec—passage from Quebec to Upper Canada—purchase of land, stock, and implements—erection, (if necessary) of dwelling house and out-buildings, and support of the family, until the soil yields its produce.

Hence the frequent appeal to the benevolent patrons of literature, and the success of the recent attempt in Miss Mitford's behalf, inspires the hope that the present effort will not be in vain. In that hope the well-wishers of Dr. Dunham have already begun to act: on their own responsibility they have provided him with a moderate outfit; they have dispatched him by the Hibernia steam vessel, to Halifax, in Nova Scotia; and while he is traversing the Atlantic, they are making preparations for sending his family, by whom he will be joined at or near Toronto, early in September.

The smallest contributions will be gratefully received: the money may be forwarded to Messrs. HERRIES, FARQUHAR, & CO., Bankers, St. James's Street, or Messrs. GLYN, HALIFAX, & CO., Lombard Street, to be placed to the credit of His Excellency Chevalier Bunseu; the Viscount Sandon, M. P.; and F. Alleyne McGeachey, Esq. M. P., who have consented to act as *Trustees* on the occasion, and who will make a due legal settlement of the property about to be purchased, on Dr. Dunham, his wife, (in the event of her surviving him,) and the children after them: the advantage therefore to all of them will be *permanent*. The Bishop of Toronto, or some other unexceptionable gentleman, will act as the local agent of the Trustees in effecting some of these purposes.

London, June, 1843.

* See the *Oxford Herald*, of Saturday, April 23, 1842.

CRITICAL OPINIONS ON THE HISTORICAL WRITINGS OF S. A. DUNHAM, LL.D., MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SPANISH ACADEMY OF HISTORY, &c.

I. *History of Spain and Portugal.*

- "A work written with great learning, great ability, and the best spirit."—*Southey*.
- "A work of very great merit, exhibiting equal ability and research."—*Lingard*.
- "It exhibits extensive general learning, and consummate ability in the conduct of the narrative."—*Atlas*.
- "The 'History of Spain and Portugal' will be found as instructive to the philosopher as it is amusing to the general reader. The author's indefatigable diligence in research, his ability in condensing facts, and his sound logical deductions from them, render his modest volumes an invaluable addition to our historical literature. We observe that everything relating to ecclesiastical affairs is very learnedly discoursed on by the author; so much so indeed, that if he had not throughout assumed the character of an Englishman and a Protestant, we should have decided that he was a learned Spanish Jesuit. This is the very best work on the subject with which we are acquainted, English or foreign."—*Athenaeum*.
- "A history displaying a profound knowledge of our ancient institutions."—*Royal Spanish Academy of History*.
- "A work of singular acuteness and information."—*Prescott's History of Ferdinand and Isabella*.
- "A very able work. Seldom have we met with narrative which fixes attention more steadily, or bears the reader's mind along more pleasantly."—*Literary Gazette*.

II. *History of Europe during the Middle Ages.*

- "These volumes are pleasantly as well as thoughtfully written, and they well support the author's previous reputation."—*Literary Gazette*.
- "We think highly of the ability and industry of the author. We repeat our praises of the erudition which these volumes contain. They are the sacrifice of a very learned and very laborious writer to the wants and curiosity of the world."—*Athenaeum*.
- "The author evinces acute judgement in estimating the worth of the various fragments he has translated; and he has given to an erudite subject a form so popular, that we hope it will prove the means of recalling the wandering saga of the present day to the study of what their forefathers left them."—*Atlas*.
- "A very learned, candid, and impartial work."—*Revue des Deux Mondes*.

III. *History of the Germanic Empire.*

- "Mr. Dunham has fulfilled his labour in a spirit that will recommend his work to the attention of the philosophical inquirer."—*Atlas*.

"This compendium is masterly, being clear, rich, and extensive."—*Monthly Review*.

"A most useful and informing work."—*Spectator*.

"We cordially recommend this work as a valuable addition to the general reader's historical library."—*Athenaeum*.

"Quite worthy of his reputation as a judicious historian."—*Literary Gazette*.

IV. *History of Poland.*

- "A calm and judicious narrative, in which truth is given in the briefest and clearest form; and it is distinguished throughout by a pains-taking seal that deserves to be recognised as the quality of the historian."—*Atlas*.
- "It is no ordinary compilation, but a very careful and completely written compendium of the History of Poland, which does great credit to the author."—*Edinburgh Review*.
- "It is systematically arranged, and clearly written."—*Literary Gazette*.

On his General Learning.

- "If you can assist the work,* the prospectus of which goes in this packet, I shall feel much obliged to you; for I have a great interest in the undertaking. If any man is, or ever was, or ever will be, capable of executing such a work as it ought to be executed, Mr. Dunham is the man. His attainments are all but unrivalled; his industry cannot be surpassed, his feelings are those of a good and warm-hearted man; and his principles sound as old English heart of oak."—*Letter from Southey* (dated Keswick, March 21, 1835,) to the Rev. E. A. Bray, Vicar of Tavistock.
- "There is no living writer from whom greater or better things are to be expected than from Mr. Dunham."—*Letter from Southey* (the same year) to Mr. Frebendary Townsend, of Durham.
- "Dr. Dunham is a giant in literature. Compared with his vast attainments, mine are puny indeed."—*Letter from the late Rev. Hugh James Ross, Principal of King's College*, (dated October, 1838,) to a Friend.
- "A truly erudite writer."—*Dr. Gilly, Frebendary of Durham*.

Other and more numerous testimonies by several bishops, by some noble historians, and by distinguished men of letters, of inferior rank in society, might be added; were it not for the apprehension that their publication might be considered as a breach of delicacy, and even of confidence; the publication of the above extracts is sanctioned.

* Alluding to "The British Biography," which circumstances compelled Dr. Dunham to abandon.

OF THE ROYAL

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